

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

May 12, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mrs. Eileen Weiser (via telephone)
Dr. Richard Zeile
Mrs. Karen McPhee, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Ms. Melody Arabo 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Fecteau, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

Mr. Austin requested that the following items be added to the agenda: Governor's Proposed Education Plan for Detroit Update by Karen McPhee, and Proposed State Board of Education Policy on State School Turnaround.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich,
Weiser, Zeile
Absent: Pugh Smith**

The motion carried.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Flanagan invited guests to introduce themselves, and he acknowledged the attendance of Mr. Brian Whiston, Superintendent Dearborn Public Schools, who will be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction effective July 1, 2015.

IV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:42 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

V. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

VI. PRESENTATION ON SPACE STATION LAUNCH SCIENCE PROJECT BY STUDENTS FROM MADISON DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Presentation on Space Station Launch Science Project by Students from Madison District Public Schools was presented by Dr. Randy Speck, Superintendent Madison District Public Schools; Mr. Angel Abdulahad, Lead Teacher; and students Mr. Tanner Barndollar, Ms. Regina Alsabaugh, Ms. Farah Sabah, Ms. Maryam Kafra and Ms. Israa Alfadhli.

Mr. Flanagan introduced the eighth grade students from Wilkinson Middle School in Madison Heights who sent their science experiment and art project aboard an unmanned commercial supply rocket bound for the International Space Station.

Dr. Speck and Mr. Abdulahad explained the development of the projects and the national competition that resulted in being chosen to place an experiment and mission patch aboard the rocket that was successfully launched after the first launch failed. Students shared information on the design of their projects and their experiences as immigrants from Iraq. A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Dr. Pugh Smith arrived at 9:55 a.m.

VII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan presented a Michigan Good Government Teamwork Coin to each member of the State Board of Education, the Michigan Teacher of the Year, and the Governor's Education Advisor. Mr. Flanagan said during the past ten years he has been impressed with the Board working together to do what's right for the children of Michigan in a bi-partisan manner and with respect and civility. He said Department Directors award Good Government coins to symbolize leadership, teamwork and excellence.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE 2015 EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTION PERFORMANCE SCORE REPORT

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Ms. Leah Breen, Director, Professional Preparation Services; presented on the 2015 Educator Preparation Institution (EPI) Performance Score Report.

Mr. Flanagan said following the October 2013 revisions to the annual EPI Performance Score and the subsequent publication of the 2014 EPI Performance Score Reports in August 2014, the component and overall reports for the 2015 EPI Performance Scores are ready for review.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included changes in cut scores, data collection and triangulation of data; correlation of component and overall scores; and validation of the process.

IX. PRESENTATION ON THE 2014 YEAR OUT SURVEY OF TEACHERS

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Ms. Leah Breen, Director, Professional Preparation Services; and Mr. Phil Chase, Supervisor, Professional Accountability Unit; presented on the 2014 Year Out Survey of Teachers.

Mr. Flanagan said a survey of graduates of educator preparation institutions (EPIs) from the 2012-2013 academic year was conducted during the fall of 2014, with the intention of incorporating data from the survey into the 2015 EPI Performance Score. He said the overall response rate was low and uneven across EPIs; therefore, it was decided not to include the data in evaluating EPIs this year. He said a summary of statewide findings from the survey was prepared and is being presented to the Board.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included teacher diversity, critical shortage lists and minimum requirements for clinical experiences.

X. GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED EDUCATION PLAN FOR DETROIT

This presentation was added to the agenda.

Mrs. Karen McPhee, Senior Education Policy Advisor, presented an update on the Governor's Proposed Education Plan for Detroit.

Mrs. McPhee reviewed two one-page documents that she distributed.

Board member discussion followed.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Mrs. McPhee left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A. Ms. Ann Marie Borders, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ms. Borders, representing the Network of Michigan Educators, presented verbal comments and written information on success by integrating the arts and culture into the elementary curricula.

B. Dr. Nicholas Ceglarek, Hudsonville, Michigan. Dr. Ceglarek, Superintendent, Hudsonville Public Schools, presented Mr. Flanagan with a plaque in appreciation of his years of service.

XIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked that new employees be introduced.

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Ms. Jan Weckstein and Mr. Jerry Cullum from the Office of Special Education; Mr. James Whittaker from the Office of Career and Technical Education; and Krista Abdul-Hameed from the Office of Field Services.

Mr. Kyle Guarrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administration and Support Services, introduced Mr. Kevin Walters from the Office of School Support Services.

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:25 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XV. PRESENTATION ON THE PLAN TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EXCELLENT EDUCATORS

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Ms. Abbie Groff-Blaszak, Director, Educator Talent and Policy Coordination; presented on the Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation is designed to update the board on the State Equity Plan process, timelines and implications. Mr. Flanagan said Dr. Pugh Smith was a member of the root cause analysis stakeholder group.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included funding mechanisms for obtaining the best teachers, mentoring by experienced teachers, teacher salaries, daily support of teachers, including teachers in policy development, teacher recognition, and collaboration opportunities.

XVI. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There was no Board member discussion regarding grant criteria.

XVII. PRESENTATION ON PERSONALIZED LEARNING – FLEXIBLE SYSTEMS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Linda Forward, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Michelle Ribant, Director of 21st Century Learning; presented on Personalized Learning – Flexible Systems for Teaching and Learning Opportunities.

Mr. Flanagan said the presentation makes connections to several personalized learning and flexible learning initiatives around the state that promote flexibility and individual student success.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included ensuring rigorous, quality learning options that result in student learning.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 3:01 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- G. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 14, 2015

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 14, 2015.

Mrs. Straus proposed a correction to the meeting minutes.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- H. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of April 24, 2015

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 24, 2015.

Dr. Ulbrich said she will abstain from voting since she did not attend the Special Meeting on April 24, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith,
Straus, Weiser, Zeile
Abstain: Ulbrich**

The motion carried.

XX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said there will be a Special Board Meeting on May 13, 2015, which has been posted. He said the Board is meeting with incoming Superintendent of Public Instruction, Brian Whiston, to discuss protocols, transition issues, and policy priorities.

Mr. Austin said the Board has posted a Retreat for May 19, 2015, to review current priorities and progress and discuss policy priorities for the future.

Mr. Austin said he met with Governor Snyder, Brian Whiston, Karen McPhee, and John Walsh, Director of Strategy, to discuss the Board's relationship with the Executive Office. Mr. Austin said it was agreed that the meetings need to occur periodically to review high level policy

priorities and where they can agree on topics such as providing supports for at risk funding and good teacher evaluations. He said if there are disagreements, they need to be dealt with in a constructive way.

Mr. Austin said the Board requested input into the Adequacy Study, and he asked that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be included in discussions regarding the Adequacy Study. Mr. Austin said the legislation is very prescriptive on what is to be included in the study, which is currently not funded.

XXI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- I. Human Resources Report
- J. Report on Property Transfer Decision

Grants

- K. Report on Grant Awards
 - 1. 2014-2015 Intermediate School District Collaboration Grant – Amendment; \$407,000
 - 2. 2014-2015 Section 22i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment; \$1,327,065
 - 3. 2014-2015 Section 22i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment; \$14,711,675
 - 4. 2014-2015 Title I, Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant – Amendment; \$9,482,008
 - 5. 2014-2015 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects – Amendment; \$14,471,830
 - 6. 2014-2015 Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Planning, Local Educational Agencies and Local Communities – Amendment; \$241,400

Mr. Flanagan showed a video clip of the Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and he thanked Ms. Ramos-Montigny for presenting him with a special tribute. He shared his tweets from the past month, and provided an update on his visit to Wyandotte Public Schools.

XXII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Melody Arabo shared a slide presentation highlighting her monthly activities as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY ON STATE SCHOOL TURNAROUND

Mr. John Austin, President, State Board of Education led the discussion on the State Board of Education Policy on State School Turnaround.

A Draft State Board of Education Policy on State School Turnaround was distributed.

Mr. Austin said the Executive Order transferring the State School Reform Office from the Michigan Department of Education to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget is effective today, May 12, 2015. He said it is important that the Board makes a statement on state school turnaround today, given its responsibilities under the State Constitution.

Mr. Flanagan said Priority Schools are improving, and 27 schools have been taken off Priority Status, due to improvement data. Mr. Flanagan said there is no provision for the Department to take over a district or issue fines, as the draft document may indicate.

Board discussion regarding proposed amendments to the draft policy and the appropriate time to take action followed.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the Policy on State School Turnaround, as amended by discussion, and asks the Superintendent of Public Instruction to continuously identify issues related to effective harmonization of school turnaround, policy, and effort and recommend amendments to the policy.

Board discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The State Board of Education Policy on State School Turnaround is attached as Exhibit A.

Mrs. Arabo left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

XXIV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Delegate, led the Discussion on NASBE Nominations for Awards and Board of Directors.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said NASBE has announced that it is accepting nominations for the 2016 Board of Directors and also awards. She said the nominations are due June 8, 2015. She asked Board members if they have nominations to propose.

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education nominate Dr. Richard Zeile as a candidate for President-elect of the 2016 NASBE Board of Directors.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education nominate George Heartwell, Mayor, City of Grand Rapids, for the NASBE Friend of Education Award.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education nominate Mrs. Eileen Weiser for the NASBE Distinguished Service Award.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXV. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; and Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the Board's Legislative Committee met on May 4, 2015. Mr. Ackley said the State Senate and House of Representatives have each passed their own budgets and they are awaiting action in the other legislative body. He said conference committees may begin the week of May 18th, and there is a Revenue Estimating Conference on May 15, 2015.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board's Legislative Committee asked that a statement regarding at risk funding be developed. A draft statement was distributed and Dr. Ulbrich read the statement.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education support the Statement Regarding At Risk Funding.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The State Board of Education Statement Regarding At Risk Funding is attached as Exhibit B.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board's Legislative Committee also discussed a statement on the Governor's plan for education in Detroit. She said that discussion occurred before the Committee was aware that there would be a presentation by Mrs. McPhee at today's Board meeting. Dr. Ulbrich said all Board members have had an opportunity to voice their opinions earlier in the meeting, and no action will be taken on the statement at this time. She said the statement may be discussed at a future meeting.

Ms. Fecteau asked if there has been any movement on the legislation regarding early warning indicators for financially distressed school districts. Mr. Ackley said there has been no movement on those bills.

XXVI. CONSENT AGENDA

N. Approval of Criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant, \$2,000,000

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

N. approve criteria for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 28, 2015.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus said the National Association of State Boards of Education Governmental Affairs Committee, of which she is a member, met on May 11, 2015. She provided an update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Mr. Austin left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny shared photos of the Cinco de Mayo Celebration held in Grand Rapids. She said Mr. Flanagan received an award and Mrs. Weiser helped present the award. Ms. Ramos-Montigny invited Board members to attend the scholarship event on October 15.

Mrs. Straus said she attended College Signing Day at Wayne State University in Detroit. She said Mrs. Michelle Obama was the featured speaker, and it was a great celebration of students who are committing to attend college.

Mrs. Fecteau provided an update on a special education issue.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny thanked Mr. Flanagan for the Teamwork coins he presented to the Board at today's meeting.

XXVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- E. Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- F. Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

XXX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau
Secretary

State Board of Education Policy on State School Turnaround

The State Board of Education is constitutionally charged with “leadership and general supervision over all public education . . .” and is responsible for appointing a superintendent of public instruction who “shall be responsible for the execution of its policies.”

The State Board of Education believes every child in Michigan is entitled to a quality education and will hold schools accountable to meet performance standards that allow children to succeed.

Schools or school districts that fail to meet quality standards as defined under current law and the waiver in place from the U.S. Department of Education will receive assistance from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that shall include a comprehensive instructional audit. The audit will inform a School Improvement Plan approved by the Michigan Department of Education. After receiving MDE assistance, schools or districts that still fail to meet quality standards, will face progressively increasing interventions that may lead to and/or result in State takeover.

It is the policy of the State Board of Education that any entity engaged in school turnaround efforts, including the Michigan Department of Education and the State School Reform/Redesign Office/Officer adhere to the following approach:

- **Step 1:** Assistance Phase: The Michigan Department of Education shall assign a team of educational experts who will perform an instructional audit, in consultation with the school/district. The audit will be used as the basis of a School Improvement Plan that must be approved by the Michigan Department of Education. The plan shall include mutually agreeable goals and will identify the data to be used to determine progress towards reaching the goals. In addition, the plan may also identify professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators and staff. The purpose of Step 1 is for MDE to provide support and assistance to the school or school district.

- **Step 2:** The Michigan Department of Education or its designee will determine if the school/district are meeting the established goals or if substantial progress is being made towards such. If the goals are met, or if there is substantial progress, the district will be placed in Year 2 of the Assistance Phase, and the Department will continue to work with the school/district.

If the goals are not met, or if there is not substantial progress, the school/district will enter a Probationary Phase. The Michigan Department of Education will work with the school/district to determine the reasons for lack of progress, and may grant additional authority to the local Superintendent and/or local Board of Education to address the reason(s) the goals are not being met in accordance with state and federal law. A revised School

Improvement Plan will also be developed. At the end of this year, the Michigan Department of Education will determine if the goals are met, or if there is substantial progress made towards the goals. If yes, then MDE will determine if the district would remain in this phase or go back to the Assistance Phase. If a determination is made that the goals have not been met, or if there is no substantial progress towards the goals, then the school or school district would be moved to Step 3.

- **Step 3:** The Michigan Department of Education will assign a monitor who will have the authority to set the School Improvement Goals and have the authority to carry out the plan. The State Board of Education directs the Michigan Department of Education to develop the process that allows an entity to be assigned as a monitor.

The Michigan Department of Education will determine if the goals are met, or if there is substantial progress towards the goals. If so, they will determine what Phase the school will be assigned for the next school year (any Phase 1-3). If the goals are not met, or if there is no substantial progress made, the school or district would go to Step 4.

- **Step 4:** The Michigan Department of Education will take over the school or school district in circumstances described under current state law. A district will be placed back with the original authority after meeting the School Improvement Goals for three consecutive years.

Principles Guiding School Turnaround:

1. A priority in school-turnaround is to raise student achievement and to prepare students for success. The School Improvement Plan must be based on a thorough assessment of each school's particular needs, utilizing data specific to that school.
2. Each Phase is meant to be one year (unless goals are met or if there is substantial progress towards reaching the goals).
3. The goal is for the MDE to provide assistance and to help local districts succeed at turning around their own schools.
4. Local input is important. At each Phase, as part of the School Improvement Process, the leader of the Plan will hold meetings with administrators, board members, superintendent, teachers and other staff, union leadership (if unionized), and the community to design the School Improvement Plan. These meetings must be public meetings and must be posted. The meeting(s) shall take place at a convenient time and location and shall be of sufficient length for all to voice their opinions.

5. Financial transparency shall be maintained at all levels. Any entity, regardless of non- or for- profit status, that is responsible for overseeing or spending the school's budget, shall conduct annual internal audits by an independent and qualified professional and make all school-related financial records available to the public, including a detailed budget, and a detailed accounting of actual expenditures and revenues to include: personnel costs, benefits, contracts, and travel expenses. Any information that would be available to the public under the school's traditional governance model shall remain public under any new governance model.

The State Board of Education asks the Superintendent of Public Instruction to continuously identify issues related to effective harmonization of school turnaround, policy, and effort and recommend amendments to this policy as appropriate to the State Board of Education.

Adopted May 12, 2015

State Board of Education Statement Regarding At-Risk Funding

Education in Michigan has seen steady improvements over the past nine years, with increases in graduation rates, college entrance exam scores, and third grade reading proficiency; and a decline in the state's dropout rates.

In our diligence to ensure that ALL kids are achieving, we must address the educational needs of those students who must overcome the impact of poverty. Child poverty in Michigan is up by 35%, compared with 2006. One in every four children in Michigan lives in poverty. In the city of Detroit alone, four of every five children live in concentrated poverty.

Poverty, both in urban and rural communities, has repercussions on students, teachers, and schools. Food, housing, and safety insecurities have an overwhelming influence on children when they attend school and try to learn. Targeted additional resources are needed to help struggling students reach the academic success of the students in more favorable circumstances.

Governor Snyder has proposed an additional \$100 million in At-Risk funding in the 2015-16 School Aid Budget. The State Board of Education fully supports that recommendation, and urges the Michigan Legislature to include that increased investment in its final budget. This funding reaches every corner of Michigan and will reflect the values of the state's leaders – that every child matters and our greatest challenges can be overcome.

Adopted May 12, 2015